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Who's talking?
A mole at the Ministry
on page 3

Looking back...
Memories of past Father's Days
on page 5

Soccer season
Kids are ready to run their way into summer
on page 11

Pockets the Clown face paints Ava Kulas at a past Haliburton County Fair. This year's fair is set for Saturday, June 14. /FILE

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‘Here’s the thing’ …

… is a statement my partner sometimes uses to initiate pondering. I love our pondering. Others’ views and feelings help to open mine.

Driving together is sacred. Often it’s random. There’s always something marvellous beyond our car. Trapped, forward-facing, radio on, we can only talk, look, sing and listen. The outside world - and pondering - inevitably return us to wider wilder vistas.

Beside a favourite county road stretches a popular doggy daycare, farm-style, with extra pastures for various grazing livestock. The surrounding countryside is loaded with legends of the Canadian Shield. My partner once spotted a cougar. There are even rumours of Bigfoot. Yikes!

In those highlands, I have directly observed Sandhill cranes, pheasants, quail, partridges, vultures, wild turkeys, bald eagles, moose, deer, wolves, bats, coyotes, black bears, woodcocks, foxes, loons, beavers, owls, otters, mink, snakes, salamanders, skinks, fish, turtles, weasels, groundhogs, emus …

Wait. Emus? Surely not in these parts. To the unfamiliar, emus are tall flightless omnivorous birds native to Australia. If kept on Ontario farms, they forage all day on flowers, roots, seeds and bugs, and tolerate a bit of wind and snow by fluffing themselves up or retreating to shelters. Some farmers also harvest meat, oil, eggs and feathers.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

There’s a stately emu on that local acreage who ambles daily within its broad paddock. Various horses, goats and chickens also nibble nearby. They and the leggy bird obviously know each other well. Horse-with-blanket in mild snow, emu-with-feathers in mild snow: it’s oddly beautiful to witness this in winter.

Here’s the thing, begins my partner as we drive by in the spring. Do you think that the emu, or the miniature horse, or the bigger ones, actually know who they are?

I ponder. Farmers could definitely answer this. When long-ago students asked me such questions, I’d attempt some common sense. Or I simply wouldn’t know. My personal guess here is that most creatures accept themselves and their inter-relationships. Each applies natural defences or opportunism around other life forms. Then I grab Google. Thank goodness for instant research. I explore several explanations.

Yes. The mini-horse knows it’s little. And it understands it’s not an emu, even if they chat pleasantly together in the snow. And despite its pasture-buddies being stronger, larger, faster, its acute natural senses of sight and smell confirm that its hay-mates are horses too, and part of an extended family.

It’s delightfully enigmatic to behold a self-aware Australian emu grazing peaceably among classic Ontario livestock. Most sentient species carry built-in identity. Some coexist respectfully with diverse beings (humans take note …). And some have specific importance on an animal farm. Donkeys, for instance, can help scare off coyotes. Emus too. Their powerful feet and puffed-up tail-feathers intimidate predators like foxes which might stalk smaller creatures.

Farmers have perpetually understood the needs, limits, routines and contributions of each animal and crop relationship they nurture. Their constant work is to help sustain humanity through daily mindful commitment to the land. They’ve always done this.

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County Life

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Todd’s Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother’s day breakfast $13.00/person
Friday night BBQ start May 23
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each
month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you’re planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!

Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out:
705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays - June 16, 23, 30 – Darts, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - June 18, 25 – Darts, $4/player, 2 p.m.
June 18, 25 Horseshoes, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Fridays - June 13, 27 - Fish & Chips, 5 to 8 p.m. $15 for 1 piece $20 for 2 pieces
June 20 - Wings and Jam Session, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
June 13, 27 - Seniors 55+ Lunch, $17, noon
Saturdays - June 14, 21, 28, - Meat Draw, 3 p.m.
June 14 - Horseshoes Tournament, 11 a.m. Registration, $20, Live Music, Cash Prizes, Food available for purchase
June 14 – Karaoke, 8 p.m.to 1 a.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

/FILE

Wild leaks

FOR THOSE who do not know, in the springtime in Ontario, you are allowed to hunt bearded wild turkeys from April 25 to May 31. On each of those days, legal hunting hours are from one half hour before sunrise to 7 p.m.

With that in mind, please do not try to tell me that those four male wild turkeys that walked through my yard, not 10 yards from my back deck at exactly 7:01 p.m. on May 31, don't know the regulations at least as well as we do.

The worst thing is, I did not even hunt turkey this spring. So they did not need to mock me. Yet they still did.

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

Interestingly enough, this is not the first time I have been mocked by game animals. In fact, if you ask me about all the biggest bucks I have ever seen, or the grouse that literally flushed at my feet and flew in a leisurely straight line over open, unobstructed cover, or the huge flocks of ducks that settled into the marshes I hunt, or the bears that walked into bait sites I had frequented, I will tell you almost all of them showed themselves within 5 minutes after the season ended.

It's not just me either. If you think I am exaggerating, ask any hunter you know. Most will have very similar stories.

It kind of makes you think, don't it?

I don't want to get conspiratorial. Conspiracy theorists always sound crazy.

But here's what I'm thinking. Someone is tipping them off.

Yes, I believe there is a mole at the Ministry of Natural Resources. Not an actual mole – although I can't guarantee that for certain – but rather someone who is leaking this information to the game animals we hunt.

Hear me out.

I suspect that the mole meets with the animals in a dark, rural parking garage sometime before the season opens and then, after they are passed an envelope full of cash, they hand the creature a copy of the hunting regulations and then disappear off into the darkness.

I know this sounds a little far-fetched – but that's probably only because you are envisioning a lone wild turkey wearing sunglasses, a fedora, and a trench coat, walking into a garage. That, of course, is ridiculous. There would be two wild turkeys in that trench coat – one standing on the shoulders of the other.

If, this is indeed the case, I think there needs to be a Ministry-wide investigation. Because – and there is no other way to say this – it is a betrayal of the hunting community.

I hope this is not true, however.

I'd like to think that everyone is playing by the rules – and no one creature is being given preferential treatment.

Also, you have to ask yourself what kind of person would provide all this advantageous information to the game animals we hunt? And why?

Could there really be someone who actually wants to give the turkeys and other game animals an unfair advantage? If so, are they taking an ethical stance against hunting or are there other motives fueling it?

That perhaps is the biggest question, and the one I'd like answered.

I happen to think the motives are not so much ethical, but rather purely selfish.

I mean, some people have no problem risking it all for a buck.

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As our Home and Cottage Show draws to a close, we wish to thank all who participated this year...

- to those who came out to see the show
- to our vendors who sold out our show
- to those who participated in our Speaker Series
- our doggie care training experts
- and above all, the 155 members of our Curling Club who volunteered their time.

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Good news, don't tcha know

DEAR READER,

Why, wouldn't you know, ol' Maybelle has some good news to tell you. Good as opposed to bad or sad or maddening. Maybe not as good as fantastic, or as wildly opposite as tragic. But good as in goodness gracious, I feel happy enough to shout about it and, yes, happy to be sharing my news with you.

MAYBELLE'S
Fireside Stories

So, what's the good news, Maybelle? Spill it. Flap those lips, uh, pen as it were.

Just say it already, my hair is thinning just waiting for you to spill the beans.

Okay, here goes …

Vilma Yuccch and Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom are tying the knot, hitching the hitch, breathing two breaths in one space, making memories with the same last name. But not yet.

First – enter the rock. Yes, a rock. Not a diamond. Not a turquoise or emerald or topaz or ruby gemstone. A rock, grey in colour that they both found on an adventure they will always remember, especially now that Stanley made that rock into a ring that will stay on Wilma's finger until it turns blue from the weight of it, don'tcha know.

It all began …

As they were hiking through the wilds of Haliburton in a place called Barnum Creek, when out of the blue, a heron lands on a swampy bit with a basket in its beak. Really, Maybelle? A heron carrying a basket? No, not really. It was carrying a purse.

Now, I don't know how this happened. It must have needed cash and saw the purse sitting somewhere other than on the arm of a high-class gal in heels and cashmere, then swooped down and claimed it. But, as Officer McB and Vilma's story goes … it turned out to be an extremely valuable Gucci bag. So, the fact that they discovered one thousand dollars in cash in it was the cherry on top. And evidently, the heron looked very smart wearing that purse, so to beak.

Now, what happened next struck me as totally remarkable. A nearby shot was heard and if that bird didn't drop the bag and take off like a bandit. And, as it turned out, it wasn't a gun shot at all. It was a firecracker that little Andy Blimpworthy and his pal Rufus Blink fired off … just because, don'tcha know.

So, there it was. A prize from the skies…a $3,500 Gucci purse with enough loot inside to buy more than a gaggle of gum. Why, if those two lovebirds didn't run over and claim that booty as their own and while doing so -- if Vilma didn't trip over an exposed tree root right there in the walking path, and fall flat on her tummy, her eyes staring straight ahead at the rock that is now on her ring finger… but a smaller piece of it which Officer McB had Erick VonStruzel, his old friend from the police academy, now a craftsperson and self-proclaimed jeweller specializing in rocks that are found when you trip over a root growing in a walking path, upon seeing a heron land with a Gucci purse in its beak, made into an engagement ring for your beloved, Vilma or Ruth or Francine, don'tcha know.

No, I haven't been eating magic mushrooms or that sort of thing. Ol' Maybelle is simply sharing this extraordinary adventure that two of my dearest friends experienced this Spring that is the backstory to the rock on Vilma's finger.

Now when I see them together, they are even more gooey-eyed than ever. Why if he doesn't blush 'til his face turns red and her eyes sparkle so brightly, it's run for the hills or your sunglasses, whichever is closest.

I'm so happy for them. They compliment each other like coffee and donuts, raisins and bran, Lucy and Desi, Micky and Minnie, Pee Wee and Herman, and pistachio marzipan filling in Amber's Wild Child's croissants, don'tcha know.

So, Dear Reader, that's my good news. Good that while all kinds of not-so-good news is happening around the world every single day, there are still folks whose happiness comes from living in the moment and having and sharing adventures, even the smallest ones, with those they love.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories and her novel: "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon" are now available at www.amazon.com.

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Writing on the Senior Side

Make way for the naval officer

GAIL STELTER

County Life Contributor

Some dads are loving and amazing. Some are bitter and hurtful. Dads are people, and people are a mosaic, a collage of differences.

I was 26 years old when he died. I remember thinking and saying, "There are only two people in the world who really get me, and I just lost one of them". Fifty years later, I am 76 and still feel that way. Today's Father's Day story is about my dad and all the dads who came home from the war. Life was different for them. I hope you will remember them and when you do, you have compassion and a better understanding of our Baby Boomer families, our heritage and the history of our country.

He was not perfect, but his love was. He was one of them: the ones who came from war, body intact, and the world assumed they were fine. They would step back into the lives they left behind, and all would be back to normal. And, no doubt, for many it was. There was no talk of PTSD or mental health. Oh, some were in hospitals. They called it shellshock, and the world understood. Perhaps, the world didn't understand that no one comes home from war unwounded.

Marsha lives on our street and is my childhood friend. She comes with us to the Legion Christmas Party. It's a great party with food and treats, and children's entertainers. We sing Christmas songs, and Santa arrives. All the kids get lovely gifts, the toys that cost money and might not be under our Christmas trees. Each gift is wrapped and has the name and age of the child. How come Marsha is the only one on our street to come to the party? Why does she come with us? Marsha's dad did not come home from the war. She doesn't have a dad. Did he die in the war? No, that can't be, Marsha is younger than me. I know he was in the war, and I know he is dead. No one ever answers these questions, and Baby Boomers learn early on not to ask them. I feel sad for her. My dad makes sure she in on the list for the party. It doesn't make up for not having her dad, but we have fun at the party. It's good for me to see, at an early age, that life is so different for every child and family on my Baby Boomer postwar, suburban street. It took me some time to come to terms with all those differences. I wanted to hold fast to my TV dad image, and thought something was wrong because my dad didn't fit the mould of *Father Knows Best* or *Leave It to Beaver*. He didn't fit my book dad image of *Dick and Jane* or *the Bobbsey Twins*.

He was larger than life and exuded love and joy. And, oh yes, he drank too much. And oh no, he didn't drink before the war.

"Make way for the naval officer". Dad says this as he comes into the room where everyone has gathered. Dad was not in the Navy. He was a captain in the army. He told me that when he would go into the officers' mess, he would say, "make way for the naval officer." The men would laugh and step aside. He said that those navy boys got better service at the bar. After the war, it's one of his everyday sayings. We teased him after he had surgery, and they removed his navel. Make way for the ex-naval officer!

"I'm on the way to alabam". Time to go home and everyone knows Dad is leaving. He announces, usually in a loud, laughing, singing manner, that he is on the way to alabam.

"Come on, Gatesy Gates, I'll teach you to do the Christmas waltz." We dance around our tiny living room. I learn the waltz. I am Gatesy Gates, or Gates, or Gades. Dad gave me my nickname, and my family and Peter call me this. I have no idea where Dad got this name. I sort of thought it was my name until I went to school.

"How about Cabbagetown or the Palace Pier? It's a good day for collecting chestnuts at Queen's Park. We can stop at the St. Lawrence Market." Last year on Father's Day, I wrote about Saturday mornings with my dad. Years of good times and fun adventures.

"Sweet Rosey O'Grady and They're Moving Father's Grave to Build a Sewer." It took me some time to figure out why Rosie went out in the alleyway and lay down and died by the yard. You know she swallowed a tape measure, and dying by inches was hard. I can't tell you about Dad singing *They're Moving Father's Grave to Build a Sewer*. Suffice it to say, it makes me laugh and remember his humour. I know every word, and I'm not shy to sing for everyone.

Yes, of course, there were difficult times and I do not underestimate the worry, sadness and character building they brought. I am a product of the good and bad, happy and sad. I love my Dad.

I hope you have fun remembering your wartime dads and appreciating the difficult times that formed them. If you were loved, and if you felt that love (even just for twenty-six years), you are indeed fortunate.

Remember, make way for the "naval officer" in your life. Happy Father's Day.

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Somewhere over the rainbow

IT'S JUNE, which means that we are starting to see rainbows everywhere.

I love it.

As a person who seems to have an allergy to dark colours, a season of rainbows is right up my alley.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

The first rainbow flag we know today was designed by queer artist Gilbert Baker in 1978, who was looking for a means to showcase the variety and depth of the LGBTQ communities. "Our job as gay people was to come out, to be visible, to live in the truth, as I say, to get out of the lie. A flag really fit that mission, because that's a way of proclaiming your visibility or saying, 'This is who I am!'" he said.

The flag has since adapted and grown, eager to include all sexual orientations and preferences under the umbrella of the community.

And while I love to see the flags flown with Pride, we must remember to fly the flags far beyond the 30 days designated as Pride Month.

When I see a company change their logo to rainbow colours, I instantly like that company. I know it's a company that prides itself on inclusion, on growth, on acceptance.

The only issue with that, is that these companies know that. It is easy to capitalize on the mighty rainbow this time of year. But what are these companies and conglomerates doing to walk the talk?

In an era where flying your true flags comes at a cost from governmental scrutiny (we're living a real life *Handmaid's Tale* thanks to our neighbours to the south …), showcasing any form of flag takes courage.

But Pride is more than a few weeks of the year. Yes, that's when we gather and celebrate and put on our favourite fancy footwear.

But it should always be more.

These companies that fly Pride flags in June, what are your diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) organizational practices? Are you honouring and protecting your employees? Supporting other organizations who have aligned priorities? Actively boycotting organizations who quash others?

What are the things we do not just for the rainbow season, but over and around it as well? We are allowed to hold organizations accountable. To ask questions. To push boundaries. Here, at *County Life,* the *Echo,* and the *Minden Times*, we are proud to fly the Pride flag. All are welcome, and love is love.

Pride can be many things. It started as a riot; a powerful action taken one hot summer day in New York City, way back in the year 1969.

It's evolved to become a party, a parade, a celebration, a stance. It's expanded to new groups, new beliefs, new flags.

And I feel honoured to have watched it grow and change over the years; going from a taboo topic to a spirited storyline, welcoming all walks of life along the way.

But at its very core, through the sparkles and the sequins, it's about feeling safe. It's about creating a world where children can grow up, knowing full well that they are welcome to be anyone they want to be, love anyone they want to love, and live any way they want to live.

So here's to the season of the colours, and the dashes and strokes that happen all around it, creating a world of wonder and whimsy for everyone. Over the rainbow, and beyond.

Top 10 Alternate Reasons there's smoke in the air

YOU'VE PROBABLY noticed that over the last couple of days, there has been a lot of smoke in the air. The obvious explanation is that this is smoke from the wildfires in Manitoba being blown over Ontario by the prevailing winds.

Maybe, but there are so many other things that could have caused all that smoke too. Here are my top 10 offerings.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Someone on the highway forgot to release the emergency brake on their car.
2. That one person at the barbecue who likes meat very well done.
3. The chili eating contest that ended four hours ago.
4. With Internet prices so high, people are, once again, reverting to smoke signals.
5. Somewhere out there a survival skills influencer refuses to quit trying to start a fire by rubbing two sticks together.
6. A rock video producer overdid the dry ice.
7. Grandpa's cooking again.
8. A horrible explosion at a distant talcum powder factory.
9. That guy with the new smoker who said, "I don't need to read instructions…"
10. Free samples day at a new cannabis store.

Evening

Rain rinsing Air, leaves breathing in their trees,
as breeze weaves through their branches, over nests that are hidden behind curtains of green,
where birds return to rest their wings, after a day of warbling their way through the world,
their evening song, smearing Air, before they nestle into feathered balls of sleep,
beneath a Sky that cradles the orb of Sun, its bloodshot eye blinking between the trees as it sinks into the hills,
leaving pink-streaked welts behind, bruising the bellies of clouds, floating over the hills,
a stillness, veiling the trail, as I stand at the spot where it curves into a clearing,
peering up at Sky and the ripening Moon, light, lingering longer, each evening, softening its edges,
breeze ruffling the bushes, brushing my cheeks, as I watch the tall grasses sway,
a pair of deer appearing from behind a bush, blurring into one another, as they stand in the grass,
so close to each other, as if they were one, my Breath, slowing, my eyes, widening,
smiling at what they've never seen, the pair of deer, nuzzling, neck to neck,
like teenagers navigating their first kiss,
I dare not move from my spot in the grass, for fear of frightening them away,
staring at the pair of deer and the tenderness that they share,
the kind that you hold onto and handle with care, so it doesn't fall apart or break,
the stillness of the moment, shattered when I sneeze, trying to muffle it in my sleeve,
quietly cursing my allergies,
as I watch the pair of deer flinch then bolt back into the bushes,
listening to the rustling of leaves, staring at the empty patch of grass, feeling breeze graze my cheeks,
the same breeze that brushed their fur as they stood beneath the swelling Moon, on the edge of a clearing,
inhaling the warmth of a late spring evening, as leaves stir in their trees and birds settle into their nests,
the fragrance of lilacs perfuming Air, somewhere, as teenagers stumble through their first kiss,
far from the forest where the pair of deer curl into sleep beneath the canopy of trees,
blanketed by darkness, feeling each other's Breath, breathe.

Sylvie Kalenda

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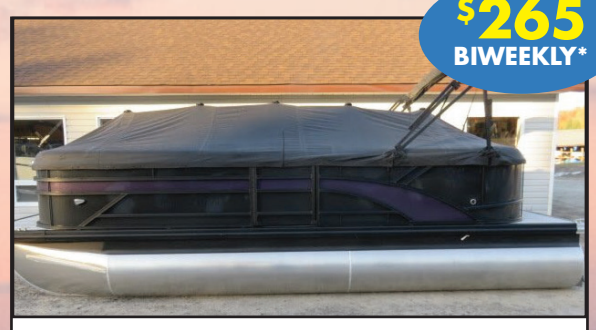

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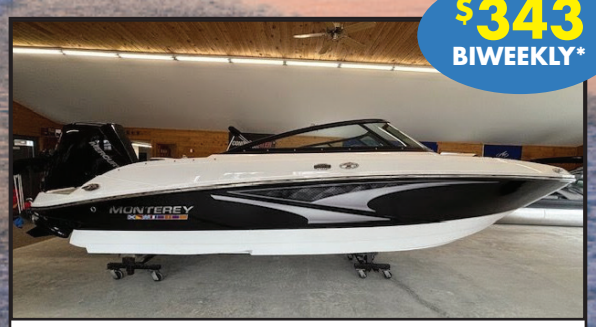

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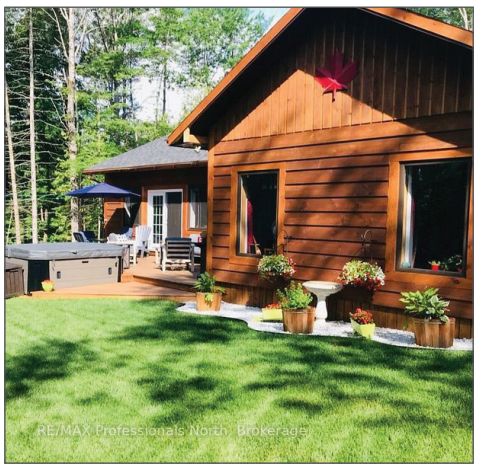

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Bear on a log by Tammy Nash

Snapping Turtle by Randy Moratz

Loon by Jill Moulton

Red Trillium by Randy Moratz

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Summer soccer kicks off

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

With so much interest in soccer, players have been split up between Tuesdays and Thursdays at the field in Haliburton. /FILE

It's become a sure sign of summer. The minivans crowding the corners of the high school field. Squeals of delight and sticky hands passing out watermelon slices.

In fact, it's become so popular that the regular Thursday night sessions have branched out. "This is our fourth year," said Kathy Judson, the founder of Haliburton Grassroots Athletics, "and we have expanded so much, we needed to add another night."

Moving forward, the youth boys are set to play on Tuesday evenings, and the girls and co-ed teams will take the field on Thursdays. With the age groups ranging from four to 13 years old, the field is set to be full each night. "For some people, this is their only opportunity to play all year," said Judson.

She noted that there are 250 kids in total registered, and the kids are evenly split between boys and girls. Judson is particularly excited about the interest from the girl players. "It's important to separate kids at a certain age based on size and confidence," said Judson. "We need to give the girls their own space to play, to let them learn to play in their own ways."

Judson shared that by giving the girls their own space, she believes it has encouraged the girls to return year after year. And now, some of the girls have graduated to playing in the women's league that's set for Sunday nights. "We have some girls playing alongside their moms now," she said. "It's awesome to see."

The Sunday night women's league started on June 1, with the kids leagues starting on Canada Day. Due to the nature of the kids' schedule landing throughout week days, the organization does not have access to the local fields until the high school sports have wrapped up for the year.

Judson shared that recruiting coaches this year has been "absolutely amazing," with most coaches naturally falling into place from interest and past experiences. "I do believe that leading by example is the best way to encourage anything," she said, noting that the roster of coaches are dedicated and eager to provide the best experience possible for the kids over the summer.

The papers will be sharing the Stars of the Week from the summer soccer programs, once the season starts in early summer.

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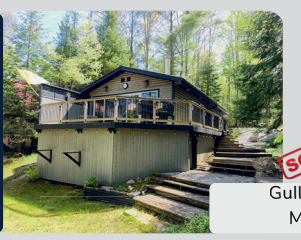

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Rockhounding rocks in Haliburton County

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

Pictured, rock hounders of all ages are able to get outside and check out the rare geological offerings across Haliburton County. /FILE photos

While driving on Highway 35 last week, I noticed a man swinging at the rock on the side of the road.

An unusual site, but I figured they must be with the ministry or some other township official. That was not the case, as when I drove past, I saw them wearing bug netting and piling their collections into Home Depot buckets. The buckets were thing stuffed into their trunk.

This led me down a rabbit hole in which I learned the term rockhounding. Rockhounding is the hobby of collecting rocks, minerals, fossils, and other earthly materials that can be mined from the ground.

While I knew that Bancroft held an annual Rockhound Gemboree festival every year (July 31 to Aug. 3 this year), I thought that Rockhound was the name of the festival's mascot, not something that people did.

The situation of the Haliburton Highlands on the Canadian Shield provides us with unique geological formations in the county. When glaciation occurred, it scraped off the largest layers of soil, resulting in easy access to rocks.

Ask any gardener in the county and they will share with you their frustrations regarding a lack of soil and an abundance of boulders.

The adjacent Hasting County, home of the Rockhounding Gemboree, is known as the Mineral Capital of Canada. As Hastings County's closest neighbour, Haliburton County's mineral deposits should not be overlooked.

In 2020, Highlands East became the first municipality in Ontario to secure public mineral collecting sites and allow both visitors and residents to extract and collect minerals for free. Their mineral collecting locations include the Schickler Fluorite Occurrence, Desmont Mine, and Titanite Hill (Gibsons East Road Occurrence). With the Schickler Fluorite Occurrence and the Desmont Mine location requiring a waiver for permission to visit, I tossed a coin to decide on which rockhounding spot I should try out first.

The coin landed on heads, leading me to the Schickler Fluorite Occurrence.

In a 1981 field report, geologist H.D. Meyn writes "This property can be reached by a trail on the first hill east of the Cope Lake Road on the Mumford Road. This is another of the several calcite, fluorite-apatite vein deposits. No vein material was seen in place. All of it is removed. But mineral specimens remain and scapolite crystals line the wall (ceiling) of the cut in one place."

Unbeknownst to me, I had actually walked past the path towards the Schickler Occurrence while searching for a fork in the road to locate a geocache in the area.

This time, instead of my cell phone, pen, and Geocaching Capital of Canada book, I had a rockhounding hammer, collapsible shovel, and backpack to put my specimens in. On YouTube, I had found videos of rockhounds pulling perfectly shaped crystals and rocks with purple veins streaking through them.

I was confident that I could also find a gem. A pamphlet from 2021 tells me that the Schickler Occurrence's mine is full of hexagonal crystals of red and green apatite, red and purple fluorite, white calcite, yellow scapolite, feldspar, and green pyroxene. All options would be beautiful mineral specimens and I am not a picky man.

Lathering myself in bug repellant and a bug hat, I began to hike up the hill to the Schickler Occurrence. Hiking for much longer than expected, I knew that I was lost. Retracing my steps, it turns out that Highlands East has clearly marked the trail to the mine with red ribbon on the trees.

The Schickler Occurrence looks like a playground of rock, dug holes, and a cave that others have explored. While it is clear that people have visited it to collect minerals, there was no one there with me during the week.

I began to dig frantically, not knowing how far to dig down or where to dig to find mineral samples. Digging straight down into the dirt, I did not find any hexagonal crystals like the people in the YouTube videos, so I switched gears and poked my head into the cave at the mining site. While small, it is a very interesting site to behold. Scratch marks line the roof of the overhang, with rubble from excavating rocks lining the bottom of it. Out of my element, I began to look through the piles of rocks left behind by past rockhounders. Surprisingly, I found some stones with tiny crystals formations. When I brought them home, they could be clearly seen shining under a UV light. A tiny find, but my first successful venture into rockhounding.

While I did not find any stunning gemstones, I highly recommend visiting the sites that Highlands East has to offer. Rockhounding is the opportunity to go out and explore nature, while sometimes finding a souvenir you can take home with you.

Applications for mineral collecting can be submitted on Highlands East website. Three days of advance notice must be given in order to process your application. There is no fee for mineral collecting, but the municipality does ask rockhounders not to harvest from the same site more than once per year. Titanite Hill does not require permission to visit.

Sturdy footwear, gloves, and a hat are recommended while rockhounding. Other useful equipment can include a shovel, trowel, rock pick, safety glasses, backpack, and paper to wrap your specimens in.

Highlands East offers mineral collecting areas that seem barely touched by humanity. There is so much potential and mystery surrounding what crystals lie beneath, that their rockhounding sites are surely worth the visit.

If solo rockhounding is not your thing, Greenmantle Mineral Tours, located at 1984 Essonville Line in Wilberforce, offers tours for visitors to look at mineral specimens and is the only known location of the rare mineral flurorichterite. Greenmantle Mineral Tours can be booked by emailing greenmantlemineraltoiurs@gmail.com. Yours Outdoors also offers rockhounding tours available by request through their website yoursoutdoors.ca.

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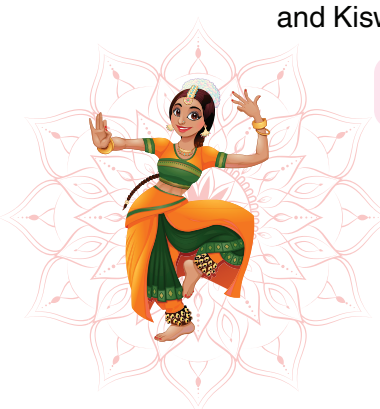

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The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association - Community Open House
When: Saturday, June 14 from 2 to 7 p.m.
Where: 171 Mallard Road in Haliburton's Industrial Park (HCSA workshop)
It's the launch of their "Adopt a Trail" program with giveaways, hot dogs, and snacks. You don't need to own a snowmobile, come on out. The HCSA wants to meet you. Our community powers Haliburton's winter economy with visitor spending and jobs. Everyone is welcome. For further info drop us a line at info@hcsa.ca. Grooming for Tourism, it's what they do

Community Yard Sale
When: Saturday July 12
Where: 20 George St, Haliburton – North Entrance
Masonic Temple Parking lot
Rent a spot – bring your table – sell your stuff. Spot rentals from $15. Book your spot early – space is limited. Hosted by North Entrance Masonic Lodge. No.463. BBQ. - Pie Sale - Bake Table- Open House. For more info or to book your spot contact nelyardsale@victoriadistrict.com

Norwood Country Jamboree
When: July 17 to 20
Where: Peterborough
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Ohana Music Festival
When: Friday, Aug. 22 to Sunday, Aug. 24
Where: Minden Fairgrounds

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Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
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ridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
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Editorial wins national award.

EDITORIAL

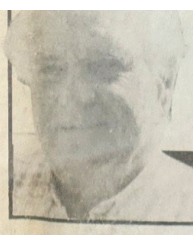
See page 6

EARN AWARDS

HHSS honours its best players at annual awards banquet.

FEATURE

See page 8



THANKS

Marshall and Helen Leighton travel to Holland and back in time.

PEOPLE

See page 19

When Norma Goodger speaks, cottager power resonates.

LIFE

See County Life

CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1987 · CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1988 · CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1989

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 108 No. 29 Wednesday, June 6, 1990 36 pages 50 cents

WALKING FOR WATER: This enthusiastic group of walkers led the way from Rotary Beach at the official beginning of this year's Walk for Water. The event raised more than $10,000 to help bring clean water to people in Third World countries. For more details, see story on Page 2.

Businesses fuming as Dysart waits for report

by MICHAEL WOLOSCHUK
Staff Reporter

Tempers are rising high in Haliburton as local businesses try to file damage claims in the wake of the May 23 Moss's Pond beaver dam flood.

While the municipality waits for the results of an engineer's study on the flood to come in, Haliburton residents affected by the deluge say that they are being kept in the dark about its causes because the council is afraid the finger of blame will point at them.

"I don't like (Dysart et al Reeve) Bill Davis's attitude about this situation at all," says Beryl O'Connor, owner of Highland Window and [illegible].

She and other business people in the area are critical of the way Davis and the entire Dysart council has handled the details in the flood's aftermath.

Last week the municipality decided to wait for an engineer's report on the cause of the flood before commenting on who or what was responsible for the breaking of the beaver dam.

"He's playing games with us," says O'Connor. "I don't know who's responsible, but I don't want to be stuck in the middle."

O'Connor's store suffered extensive damage as torrents of water ripped through Maple Avenue on its way to Head Lake. Although she hasn't estimated the entire cost the flood has cost her business, she admits to spending "a lot of time just cleaning up the mess, and paying workers overtime to help out."

She and her husband are furious that the council hasn't publicly advertised instructions on how people can forward damage claims to the municipality. O'Connor says that all the information she's heard about flood claims "has been through word of mouth."

In a telephone interview yesterday, Dysart Clerk-Treasurer Donna McCallum said that anyone with a damage claim resulting from the flood should forward a letter stating damages and expenses to the Dysart municipal office. These will be forwarded to the municipality's insurance company for review.

Although her business is keeping its head above water, O'Connor is concerned for people who aren't fortunate enough to have kept some money aside for a rainy day.

"We're lucky we have money in the bank. Otherwise, who would have covered our bills? It's so ridiculous, the whole thing just makes me sick."

Meanwhile, Davis says that the engineers studying the flood hope to have their report completed in a week. Until their report comes in, he says, it is useless trying to comment on the situation.

"It's going to be hard to determine a cause," he says. "I can have my suspicions, you can have your suspicions, but we need to have some evidence."

Davis admits that the road superintendent and crew and council "have been taking some flak" over the flood, but the municipal council won't do anything about it until the engineer's study is released.

If it turns out that the flood was the municipality's fault, he says, then all claims will be covered by liability insurance.

Until then, Davis says he and the council express sympathy for people hit by the flood.

"It's tough — there are people hurting out there. Everyone to a person on council feels for what they're going through. I feel badly for them.

"It's really complex. It's not a cut-and-dried thing and the severity of the situation is very great."

Severity or no, Jill Cook of Cook's Produce argues that the municipality's response to the

Please turn to page 2

Echo chosen best in Canada for 2nd year

For the second year in a row, *The Haliburton County Echo* has been judged the best community newspaper in Canada in its circulation category. The award for overall excellence came in annual Canadian Community Newspaper's Association Competition involving more than 800 small town papers in all 10 provinces.

In addition to the first place award for broadsheet newspapers with a circulation of 4,500 to 6,499, The Echo garnered two other awards. Publisher Len Pizzey was awarded first prize for the best editorial on a local topic published in a paper with a circulation between 4000 and 12,499, and editor Martha Perkins was awarded a second prize for her feature writing in the same circulation category.

The Echo has won almost 40 provincial and national awards since 1978.

The Minden Times was also an award winner in the CCNA competition. *The Times'* coverage of a neo Nazi rally in the area won in the best news story category. *The Times* was also awarded a third place for sports photography in a paper with a circulation of less than 3,999, and earned third place in the community service category.

Tent Caterpillar population on the decline, MNR reassures

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

People who see the pest clinging tenaciously to their tree branches may disagree, but the Forest Tent Caterpillar population is about to collapse.

"There are local pockets of fairly high populations but on the whole, they're declining," says James Munn, a Ministry of Natural Resources forest technician.

As well, the large number of friendly flies, a natural parasite, "indicates the soon-to-be-collapsing population."

The areas still suffering from infestation are generally south of Minden. There's also a high population near Salerno Lake, in Snowdon.

Caterpillar infestations occur naturally every 10 years. Populations peak for three or four years before parasites increase their populations enough to kill off the caterpillars.

Besides the nuisance factor, tree health is the main concern when the caterpillars arrive. After the caterpillars eat the first foliage, trees can usually produce a second cover in late June or early July. Trees can do this, if there are no other stresses, for three or four years and still remain viable.

But the MNR is worried about the past two dry summers. "A lot of the trees here grow in shallow soil which is susceptible to drought damage," says Munn. They're hoping there will be more rain this year to help the trees recuperate.

CAS executive quits

by SALLY RITCHIE
Staff Reporter

The business manager of the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society has resigned after the board of directors discovered $220,000 in expenditures which had not appeared on the year end report.

Society President Roy Wood says Brian Wing's resignation is the result of the business manager's incorrect assessment of costs in a single area.

"There wasn't any money spent that didn't have to be spent," Wood says. The discrepancy occurred on the boarding rate line, which states the amount paid to foster parents and group homes. Wood says no one has any control over the money spent in this area: "When people show up, we have to take them in."

At each month end, Wood says Wing changed the accounting figures because he did not believe the stated boarding costs. "He didn't believe the numbers," says Wood of Wing's assessment. Since Wing thought the figure was more than what the socie-

Please turn to page 2

HERE'S THE PITCH... Two-year-old Christopher Martin turned out for last Wednesday's Minor Softball League registration and was ready for any batter who came his way. Unfortunately, Christopher won't be old enough to register for a few more years. But as his dad says, "He thinks he's playing."

Cellular phones hit Haliburton

by SALLY RITCHIE
Staff Reporter

Expansion of cellular phone coverage up through the Highlands has simultaneously made customers and cellular phone salespeople very happy.

John Stethem, owner of Trucks Plus, says sales of cellular phones have increased substantially. "The last two weeks have been phenomenal," he says. Recent customers have included local business people, contractors and homemakers.

Construction contractors appreciate the flexibility a phone offers, Stethem says. Workers with portable phone units can be dropped off at remote locations and can call when the job is completed. As well, the phones are popular with cottagers who are unable to have regular phones installed.

Stethem says business commuters use the phones to "turn nonproductive time into productive time." As well, better communica-

Please turn to page 2

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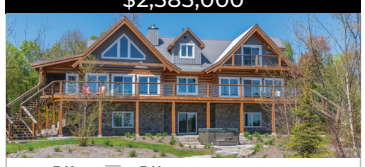
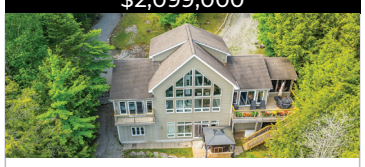


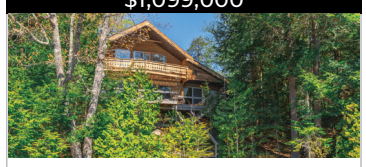
3 X BED | 5 X BATH | MLS# X12170193

KENNISIS LAKE
$2,099,000



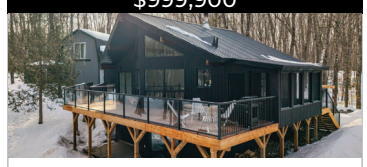
5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# X12110017

KENNISIS LAKE
$1,099,000



3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12169805

EAGLE LAKE
$999,900

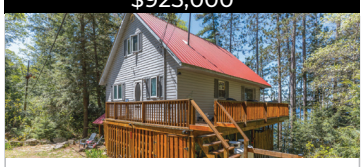


3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12029422

CANNING LAKE
$949,900
NEW PRICE

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12151314

KENNISIS LAKE
$925,000

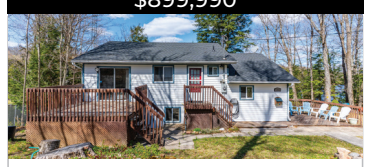


3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12176356

HALIBURTON LAKE
$925,000

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12074153

LONG LAKE
$899,990

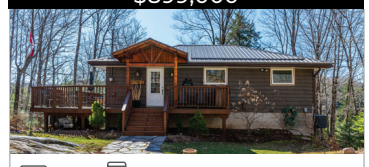


6 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12146750

KOSHLONG LAKE
$899,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12166694

NEGAUNEE LAKE
$899,000

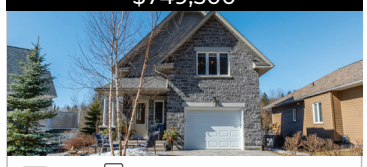


3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12120338

HORSESHOE LAKE (ROAD BTWN)
$895,000
NEW PRICE

3 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# X12137855

SILVER BEACH
$749,500



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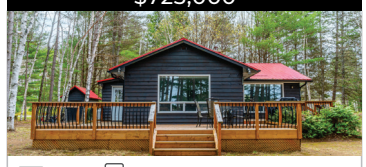
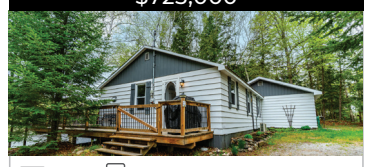
WILBERMERE LAKE
$725,000



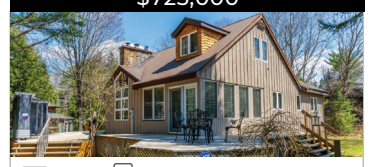
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12138474

HALIBURTON LAKE
$725,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12159564

KENNISIS RIVER
$725,000

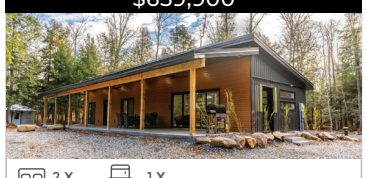


X BED | # X BATH | MLS# X12137708

HALIBURTON
$699,000

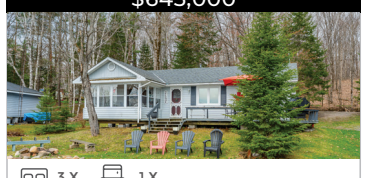
3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X 12182080

EAGLE LAKE AREA
$659,900



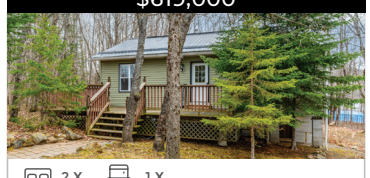
2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12095585

KUSHOG LAKE
$645,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12130572

CRANBERRY LAKE
$619,000

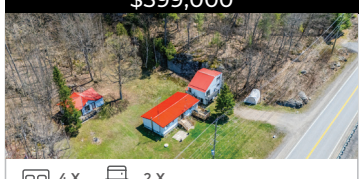


2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12101365

BOBCAYGEON ROAD
$599,000

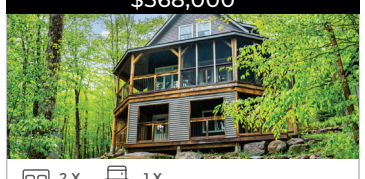
2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12175990

KUSHOG LAKE (RD BETWEEN)
$599,000



4 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12140930

HALIBURTON
$568,000

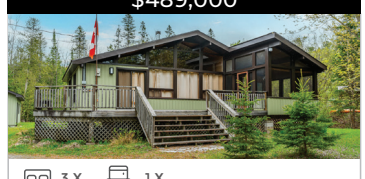


2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12175116

WILBERFORCE
$499,000
NEW PRICE

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12093164

12 MILE LAKE
$489,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12155241

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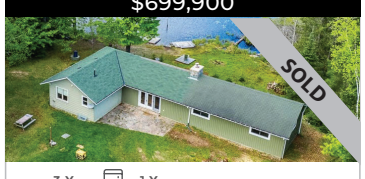
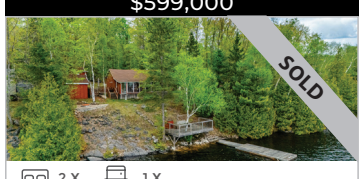
$699,900



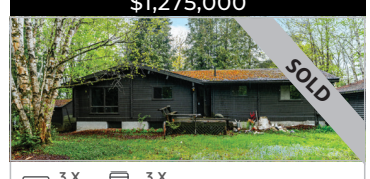
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12179568

GLAMOR LAKE
$599,000



2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12161505

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE
$1,275,000



3 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 12121172

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